Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Original) A piston ring compressor for compressing piston rings about a piston, wherein the portion of the ring compressor which contacts the piston rings comprises a polymer coating.

Claim 17 (Original) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polyisocyanate, a polyurethane, a polyester, a polyethylene, an UHMWPE, a polybutylene, a polypropylene, a plastisol, a polyacrylic, a polyether ketone, a polyphenyl sulfone, a polyvinyl, a polyvinylidene, a silicone, a polyisoprene, an epoxy, a polychloroprene, a polyether imide, a polybenzimidazole, an ABS alloy, a fluoropolymer, an ionomer resin, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polyamideimide, a vinyl acetate, a co-polymer thereof, a polymer blend thereof or a combination thereof.

Claim 18 (Original) The ring compressor of claim 17, wherein the polymer is a fluoropolymer.

Claim 19 (Original) The ring compressor of claim 18, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), an ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), a fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) or a polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF).

Claim 20 (Original) The ring compressor of claim 17, wherein the polymer is polyamide.

Claim 21(New) The ring compressor of claim 20, wherein the polyamide is a nylon.

Claim 22 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the entire ring compressor comprise a polymer coating.

Claim 23 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a coefficient of friction of 1.0 or less when measured against steel.

Claim 24 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a coefficient of friction of 0.5 or less when measured against steel.

Claim 25 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a coefficient of friction of 0.1 or less when measured against steel.

Claim 26 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a hardness value greater than 25 on the Shore D hardness scale.

Claim 27 (New) The ring compressor of claim 16, wherein the polymer has a hardness capable of being measured on the Rockwell R hardness scale.